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SOURCE [redacted]

- 1. Originally all of the forests of the Rogatin District were under the office of the chief forester in Rogatin. In 1930 the southern part was placed under a separate forest administration with headquarters in Burzhtyni/sig because of the large area and the difference in types of trees between the northern and southern parts.
- 2. The northern part was characterized by many hills, deep ravines, beautiful scenery, and large and strong growths of trees. This area once also contained many large estates. The southern part was mostly a plain with the exception of a hilly belt near the Dnestr River in the vicinity of the villages of Kozara and Zhuravenko. The Rogatin forest was intersected by the two highways, the Lvov-Stanislav and the Khodorov-Tarnopol. On each crest of a hill there was a fire tower approximately 20 meters in height. The best forest growths in this area were all hilly ground in the northern part. The Dnestr River and two smaller rivers, Gnila and Verechisya, flowed in the southern part lessening growths of forests and in the western part many lakes and ponds cut down on forest areas. In this area trees that had been cut down and bushes and plants that had been destroyed were not reforested as of 1944.
- 3. All forests in both parts of the Rogatin District were nationalized during the first Soviet occupation. When the Germans arrived in 1941 they willingly approved the existing conditions, maliciously saying that they were not the authors of the expropriation. Prior to 1940 there were many common property forests such as institutional, church, and public forests. There were also private properties, both large and small. Their areas were as follows:

Common property:	Institutional forests	889 hectares
	Church forests	209 "
	Public forests	1,045 "

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Private property:	Large estates forests	5,878 hectares
	Jewish forests	308 "
	Peasants forests	2,093 " 50X1

Total 10,422 hectares

In the entire district, there were no other important forest estates.

4. The forests of the Rogatin district, north and south, had an area of 16,470 hectares. The lowest strata in this area is Silurian formation over which lies a Miocene tier. The third layer was of chalk. The soil was fertile sandy loess, a medium thickness of forest humus, degraded chernozem (black soil) with chalk and limestone immediately underneath.
5. Sixty per cent of the trees were beech and hornbeam. Thirty-five per cent were oak, ash, maple, sycamore, elm, birch, linden, aspen, and cherry. Pine and spruce amounted to about five per cent. Well tended growths of large trees amounted to about 7 per cent of the total area and were allowed to remain on former large estates. A preserve covering 3.5 hectares, called the Stratyn Forest, contained 250-year old beech. Entire sections in the area of Chortova Gora (Devil's Hill) between Rogatin and Pukovo were covered with cherry trees. In certain sections of the southern part there were some hazel nut trees.
6. The normal quota of cutting timber was 15,000 cubic meters. The wartime quota was 30,000 cubic meters.
7. The forest administration consisted of a headquarters with a chief forester and five assistants and seven foresters, seven deputy foresters, and 55 game wardens in the field. With the exception of four foresters, who were Poles, all other employees were Ukrainian.
8. During the timber cutting operations (wintertime) approximately 700 lumbermen were employed. Workmen were readily available for timber work, because persons engaged in lumbering were entitled to buy designated amounts of wood both for fuel and building purposes. To all other inhabitants of the area, wood was unavailable because of the great shortages.
9. The equipment ordinarily used was two-handed saws, axes, and iron wedges. Whenever a power saw was available, work improved by three to four times. The timber was taken out of the forest by horse-drawn vehicles and transported to nearby lumber yards and railroad stations. Normally the timber could be removed only during the winter when the soil was frozen and sleds were used because the roads were very bad. During this season about 300 such vehicles were employed. Some timber was removed in the summer when the road conditions permitted. It was planned to improve the roads and utilize motorized transportation. If carried out this would increase ten times the amount of timber that could be removed.

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